

In 2013, he was elected as the City's mayor. Over the last seven years, he has led Lawrence through two major crises—the 2018 Merrimack Valley natural gas explosions and the COVID-19 pandemic. Time and again, he has demonstrated his leadership and dedication to the residents of the great City of Lawrence.

The Merrimack Valley gas explosions forced thousands of families to flee the area, damaged and destroyed dozens of homes, left many businesses with considerable financial losses, and tragically took a young man's life. Throughout that period, Mayor Rivera led with purpose and empathy in every decision he made to get the City on the path of recovery, while fighting to ensure the community received all necessary support and resources. He has been a close ally as we successfully advanced the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act. This legislation will ensure no community ever faces a disaster like this one again, becoming law in December of 2020.

Just as the City of Lawrence was recovering from the natural gas explosions, the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Lawrence has been among the hardest hit communities in the Commonwealth by the pandemic, disproportionately impacting its large population of Black and brown residents. With the utmost transparency in communication, Mayor Rivera consistently urged the community to maintain social distance, enacted a city-wide eviction moratorium to protect renters, created two Emergency Small Business Relief Programs designed to help the Lawrence businesses and immigrant entrepreneur communities as they work to get back on their feet, and diligently collaborated with the State and Federal governments to set up testing sites around the city.

Mayor Rivera's leadership and hard work has been recognized by various organizations. He was awarded MassInc.'s Mayor Bill Carpenter Award for Excellence in Gateway City Leadership in 2020, and in 2018 was recognized as one of the 100 Most Influential People of Color in Greater Boston by Get Connected.

Through his many years of service, Mayor Rivera has made the City of Lawrence a better place to call home. Thanks to his efforts, the City's future is bright, and I join Lawrence residents in thanking him for his dedication to this incredible community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR AREA MEDICAID PARITY ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, President-elect Biden has pledged to address the healthcare disparity in minority communities that the coronavirus pandemic has laid bare. One longstanding disparity is that our national Medicaid program does not reach all Americans with full coverage.

The Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are subject to a hard, statutory limit on federal Medicaid support, unlike the states and the District of Columbia. This cap

means that preventative care and treatment for the poorest Americans in the insular areas will always be less available than for Americans elsewhere.

The final Obama-Biden administration budget proposal, for fiscal year 2017, addressed this systemic inequity by proposing an alignment of insular area Medicaid programs with the rest of the nation, first by removing the cap on Medicaid funding, so that it would no longer operate as a block grant in any insular area.

Congress has also acknowledged this inequity. We acted to provide more Medicaid funding for the insular areas by substantially lifting the cap through P.L. 116-94, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020. Provisions in P.L. 116-127, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act created equity between the states and the insular areas with respect to the increase in the federal-local match for Medicaid. Families First, also, provided additional federal dollars for the insular area Medicaid programs. But our actions were temporary. These funding increases expire at the end of fiscal year 2021.

Now, Congress must act again. And in doing so, we must create an enduring policy that safeguards the health of the poorest Americans in our insular areas.

To achieve that goal, I am introducing the Insular Area Medicaid Parity Act. My bill aligns with President-elect Biden's pledge to address healthcare disparities in minority communities by repealing the arbitrary cap on Medicaid for Americans in the insular areas.

By repealing the cap, we will be doing more than just ensuring there are sufficient resources to face the coronavirus crisis. We will be setting up the healthcare systems in the insular areas to respond to the next public health challenge, whatever it may be. Most important of all, we will ensure that day-after-day and year-by-year those with the smallest incomes and no access to other insurance receive the care that will keep them healthy and help ward off debilitating disease.

We will, also, be providing a level of certainty to healthcare providers—in the public and private sector—that will encourage investment in the health industry in the insular areas, which by any measure lags the rest of the nation. And by doing so we will create a virtuous cycle of rising quality of care powered by rising access that will benefit all at every income level.

The pandemic has brought home this truth: none of us can truly remain well, while some of us are ill. Now it is time for Congress to fully commit to making sure the poorest in the insular areas are treated equitably.

I thank my colleagues who joined me in introducing this legislation—Chairman McGOVERN, Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ, Chairwoman DELAURO, Chairman NADLER, Mr. CLEAVER II, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. RADEWAGEN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. LEE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SIREN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GARCÍA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MENG, Mr. CASTRO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. TRONE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. KELLY, and Ms. CHU.

HONORING ALLEN CHIN

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Allen Chin, who passed away on November 18, 2013 at the age of 91. A proud Chinese Immigrant, Allen was a member of the Greatest Generation, and valiantly served our country in WWII to protect our freedom and American values at home and abroad. Allen's life embodied the highest ideals of our nation, and his remarkable courage are forever etched in our nation's history. For his service and sacrifice, Allen was posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service during World War II.

At age 15, Allen left his family in Guangdong, China and emigrated to San Francisco, California with a sponsorship from his uncle. When WWII broke out, Allen answered the call of duty and joined the U.S. Army. Allen was sent to serve in the Pacific Theater and became a machinist who helped train Chinese allied troops. His service instilled in him a deeply-held patriotism, which he would later inspire in future generations.

Upon returning home to California, Allen became an American citizen and sponsored his family in China to come to the United States. Allen's first civilian career was owning and operating the Sonoma House grocery store—a place where all in the neighborhood convened and shopped. He met and married his wife Lillian who he called the "Pretty girl from Shanghai" and they began a long life together.

Allen and his wife raised their daughter Arlene and settled down permanently in Arizona to forge a new path filled with adventure. Allen was a devoted father and active member of the Tempe community. He opened and sold a successful Chinese restaurant, worked as a machinist in the semiconductor industry, and pursued perhaps his greatest passion: ballroom dance. A man of dignity and honor, Allen's spirit lives on with his daughter Arlene, who has followed in his footsteps and continued his legacy of service. She has served Tempe proudly becoming its first Asian-American city councilmember.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Allen for his selfless commitment and sacrifice. I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation for all he has done to make our community, our state, and our country a better place. In this spirit of gratitude and remembrance, I humbly rise to honor his life and legacy, which will continue to be felt for generations to come.

I thank Allen, and wish him Godspeed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD REPAIR ACT OF 2021

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Farm-to-Market Road Repair Act of 2021, legislation that will expand eligibility for the Surface Transportation Block